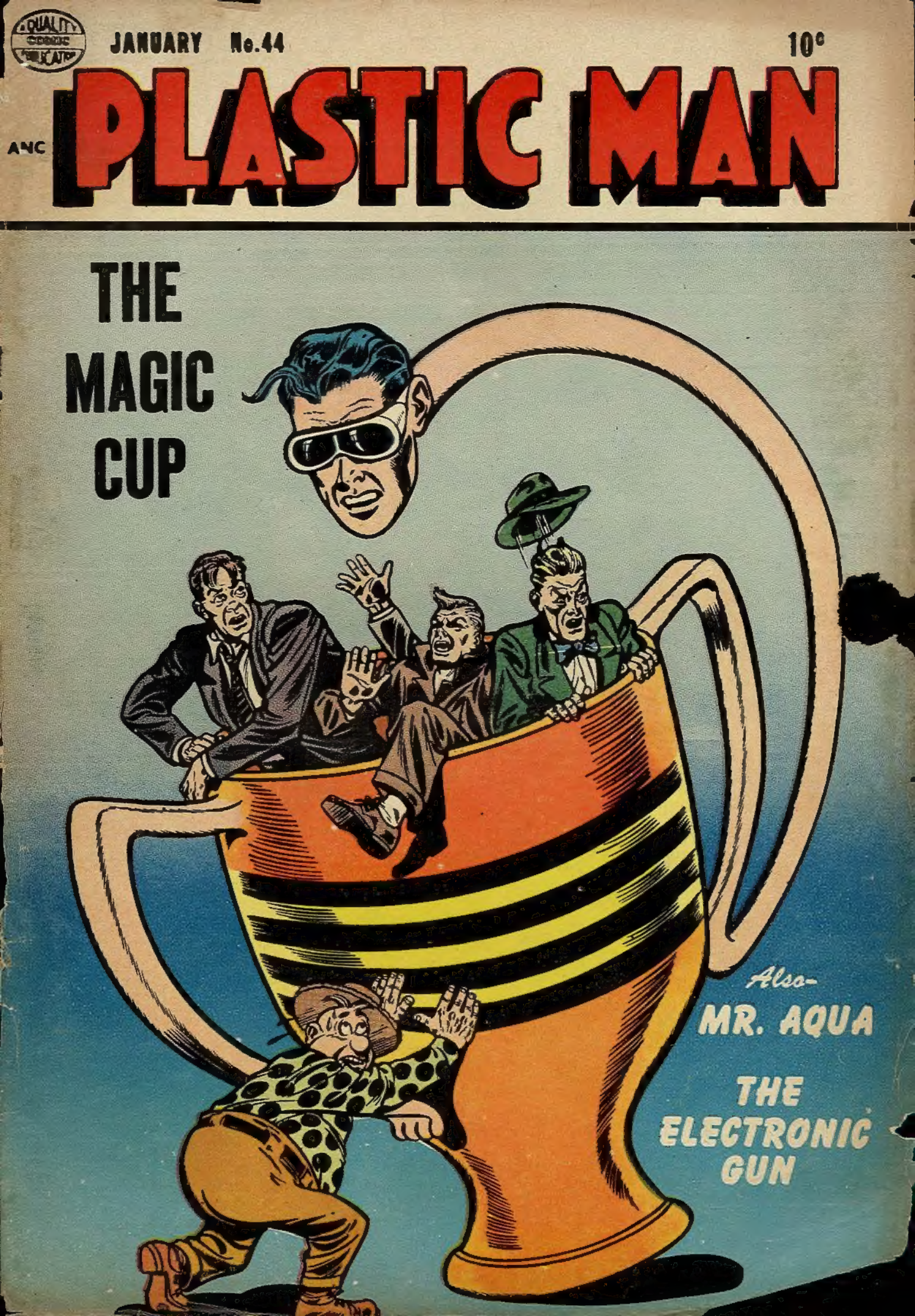
A QUALITY COMIC PUBLICATION

JANUARY No.44 10¢

PLASTIC MAN

AND

THE MAGIC CUP



Also-

MR. AQUA

THE ELECTRONIC GUN

JUNIOR SPACE PILOTS ON THE BEAM!

GIVEN!

BOYS! GIRLS! LADIES! MEN!

WE GIVE YOU CASH OR PREMIUMS!

I'M IN A HURRY TO GET BACK TO OUR EARTH BASE, PENNY, THE MAIL MAN'S BRINGING MY NEW CAMERA!
JUMPIN' JUPITER! YOU'RE SURE SIZZLING TH' OL' ROCKET TODAY, TED!
SAY! THAT CAMERA SURE IS SUPERSONIC! YOU MUST HAVE STRUCK A URANIUM LODE!
DIDN'T COST ME A DIME- JUST GOT IT FOR SELLING WHITE CLOVERINE BRAND SALVE!
HURRY AN' GET DE-PRES-SURIZED!

MAIL COUPON

Footballs, Pocket Watches, etc.

Fishing Outfits . . . Flashlights . . . 1000 Shot Daisy Air Rifles

ACT NOW!

HURRY

I'VE EARNED A SWELL RADIO AND A TELESCOPE TOO! IT'S EASY SELLING TO YOUR FRIENDS - AND YOU GIVE 'EM THESE SWELL ART PICTURES -
THAT'S FOR ME!

WE ARE RELIABLE! Cameras, Corn Poppers, Speedball Cartoon Sets, Aluminum Ware, Blankets (sent postage paid). Mail coupon for SALVE and pictures to start.

ACT NOW Ukeleles, Watches, Lovable Dolls.

OUR 58th YEAR Alarm Clocks, Pen & Pencil Sets, etc. Mail coupon.

ACT NOW

BE FIRST

Radios, Candid Cameras with carrying cases, Telescopes, Roller Skates (sent postage paid) . . . Mail coupon to start.

LET'S GO!

MAIL COUPON! GET BIG CATALOG!

Candid Cameras with carrying case, Telescopes, Watches (sent postage paid). SIMPLY GIVE pictures with White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE easily sold to friends, neighbors, relatives at 35c a box (with picture). Alarm Clocks, Pen & Pencil Sets, Bibles, Billfolds, Telescopes, Roller Skates, Blankets, Aluminum Ware, Record Players. Movie Machines (postage pd.). Rush coupon to start!

Guaranteed by Good Housekeeping

LET'S GO!

Food Choppers, Carving Sets, Bibles. Mail coupon.

LOOK!

WE TRUST YOU!

.22 Cal. Rifles, Archery Sets, School Boxes, Wallets. Mail coupon for SALVE and pictures to start.

WE TRUST YOU

OUR 58th YEAR!

Footballs, Telescopes (sent postage paid). Boys', Girls' Bicycles (express chgs. collect).

LET'S GO!

ACT NOW!

Boys', Girls' Wrist Watches, Baking Sets, Typewriters, etc.

Lucite Dresser Sets, Cook Books, etc.

ACT NOW!

MAIL NOW!

Wilson Chemical Co., Dept. 108, Tyrone, Pa. Date_____

Gentlemen:- Please send me on trial 14 colorful art pictures with 14 boxes of White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE to sell at 35c a box (with picture). I will remit amount asked within 30 days, select a Premium or keep Cash Commission as explained under Premium wanted in catalog sent with order, postage paid to start.

NAME _____ AGE _____

ST. _____ R. D. _____ BOX _____

TOWN _____ ZONE NO. _____ STATE _____

PRINT LAST NAME HERE

Paste coupon on postal card or mail in envelope today

OUR 58th YEAR - WE ARE RELIABLE! MAIL →

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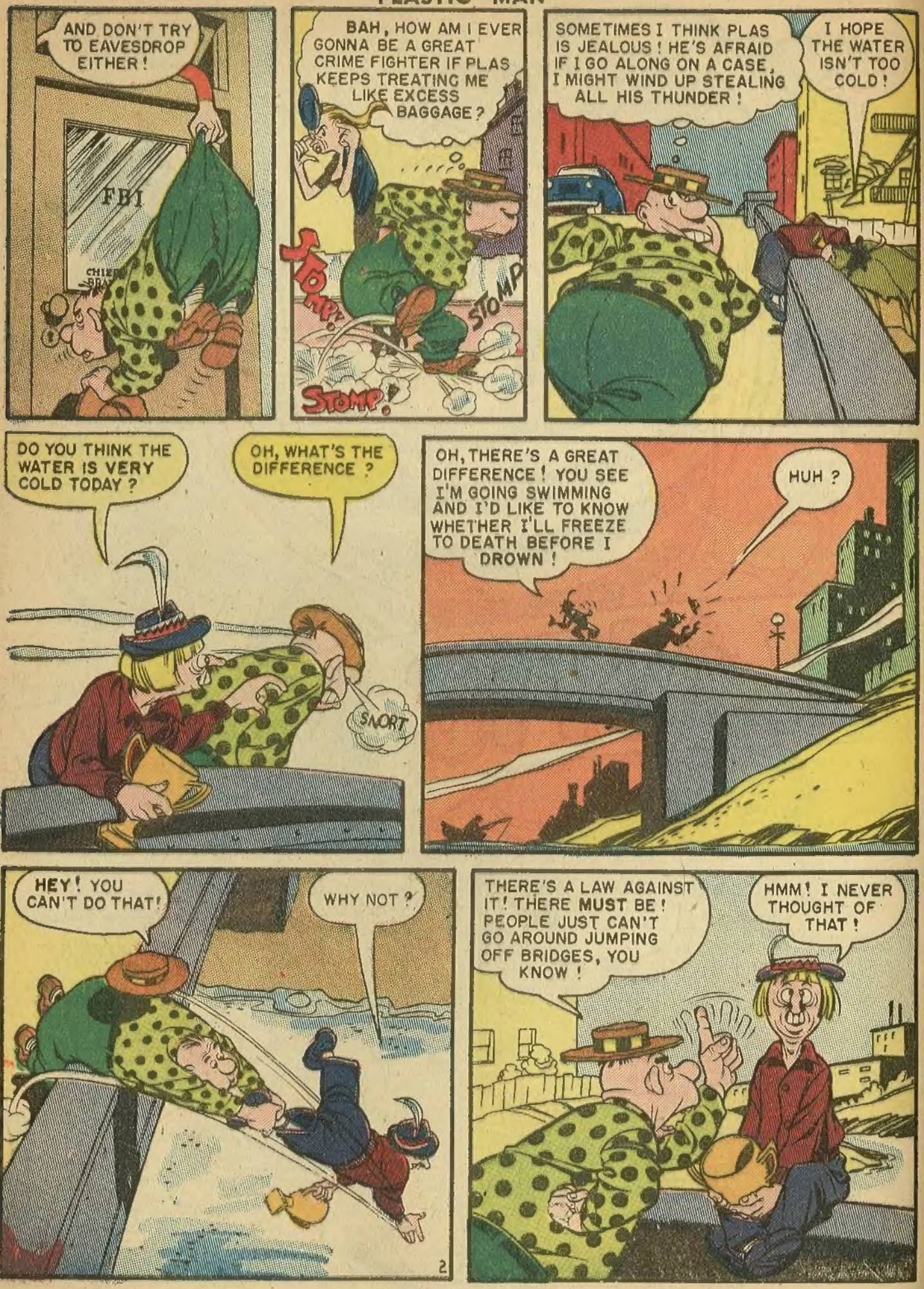
LEMME OUTTA HERE! OH, I WISH PLASTIC MAN WERE HERE!
THE MAGIC CUP WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE THE POWER TO GRANT THREE WISHES! A CHARMING LEGEND, PERHAPS, BUT OBVIOUSLY BEYOND THE REALM OF REASON! NO ONE BUT WOOZY WINKS WOULD HAVE BELIEVED IT--AND NO ONE BUT PLASTIC MAN COULD HAVE MADE HIS WISHES COME TRUE!
PLASTIC MAN

AW, PLAS, WHY NOT?
BECAUSE THIS IS A PRIVATE CONFERENCE!
FBI

SINCE YOU'RE NOT AN F.B.I. AGENT, YOU CAN'T LISTEN IN ON AFFAIRS THAT DON'T CONCERN YOU!
SLAM!


AND DON'T TRY TO EAVESDROP EITHER!
FBI
BAH, HOW AM I EVER GONNA BE A GREAT CRIME FIGHTER IF PLAS KEEPS TREATING ME LIKE EXCESS BAGGAGE?
STOMP!
STOMP!
SOMETIMES I THINK PLAS IS JEALOUS! HE'S AFRAID IF I GO ALONG ON A CASE, I MIGHT WIND UP STEALING ALL HIS THUNDER!
I HOPE THE WATER ISN'T TOO COLD!
DO YOU THINK THE WATER IS VERY COLD TODAY?
OH, WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?
SNORT
OH, THERE'S A GREAT DIFFERENCE! YOU SEE I'M GOING SWIMMING AND I'D LIKE TO KNOW WHETHER I'LL FREEZE TO DEATH BEFORE I DROWN!
HUH?
HEY! YOU CAN'T DO THAT!
WHY NOT?
2
THERE'S A LAW AGAINST IT! THERE MUST BE! PEOPLE JUST CAN'T GO AROUND JUMPING OFF BRIDGES, YOU KNOW!
HMM! I NEVER THOUGHT OF THAT!

THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY I CAN REPAY YOU! YOU'VE KEPT ME FROM BREAKING THE LAW! WILL YOU ACCEPT MY MAGIC CUP?
MAGIC? CUP?
I KNOW IT ISN'T MUCH TO OFFER! ALL THE CUP CAN DO IS GRANT A MEASLY THREE WISHES! BUT IT'S THE MOST VALUABLE THING I OWN!
CLANG! CLANG! CLANG!
OKAY, KING OBERON! TIME TO GO BACK TO FAIRYLAND!
OH, DEAR! THEY'VE FOUND ME AGAIN!
BUT I REALLY AM KING OBERON! WHY WON'T ANYONE LISTEN TO ME?
SURE, OBIE, OLD BOY! ALL THE ELVES ARE WAITING FOR YOU TO GET BACK HOME!
GOODBYE NOW!
HMPH!
CLANG! CLANG!
STONELAND INSANE ASYLUM
KNEW HE WAS A CRACKPOT THE MINUTE I LAID EYES ON HIM! MAGIC CUP, INDEED! NOW, WHERE WAS I? OH, YES! I WAS WISHING THAT PLASTIC MAN WOULD GIVE ME A LOOK-IN ON ONE OF HIS CASES!
3
I'VE BEEN LOOKING EVERYWHERE FOR YOU, WOOZY! COME ALONG! I'M GOING TO NEED YOU ON THIS CASE!
?

MOMENTS LATER...
GOT EVERYTHING STRAIGHT? YOU DRIVE THE ARMORED CAR RIGHT IN THROUGH THE GATE OF THE DEARMONT CHEMICAL FACTORY!
THEN WHAT HAPPENS?
KRINK'S ARMORED CAR HELP YOURSELF!
THE HOODS PLANNED THIS PAYROLL JOB CAREFULLY! SOME OF THEIR MEN ARE ACTUALLY EMPLOYED INSIDE THE PLANT! THEY'LL PULL OFF THE ACTUAL ROBBERY AND TRY TO ESCAPE IN YOUR TRUCK!
I'M SUPPOSED TO BE PART OF THE GANG?
YOU'RE CLICKING ON ALL TWO CYLINDERS! THE F.B.I. PICKED UP TWITCHY WILSON A FEW HOURS AGO! HE WAS SUPPOSED TO CHAUFFEUR THE ARMORED CAR... BUT HE WON'T TALK ABOUT WHO HIS CONFEDERATES IN CRIME ARE!
THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT! THAT'S TO GO THROUGH WITH THE ROBBERY AS SCHEDULED, AND LET THEM TIP THEIR HANDS! GOOD LUCK, WOOZY!
TH-THANKS!
RRR
RRRRRR
I HOPE PLASTIC MAN ISN'T FAR BEHIND ME! I CAN FORESEE ALL SORTS OF HITCHES IN THIS SCHEME!
DEARMONT CHEMICAL CO.
FOR INSTANCE, WHEN THEY FIND OUT I'M NOT TWITCHY WILSON THEY'RE LIABLE TO KEEP RIGHT ON SHOOTING... AT ME!
BANG! BANG! BANG!
PLAS!
YIII!
YOU WERE EXPECTING SOMEONE ELSE?

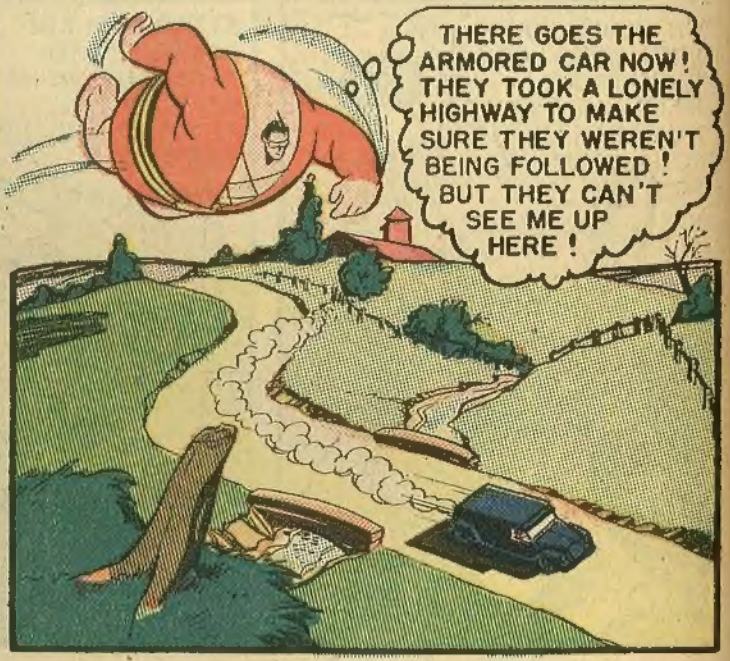
I'M SO SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU!
KLONK!
PERHAPS YOU WOULD PREFER TO MEET SOMEONE WHO LOOKED LIKE THIS ?
SIGHHH! DON'T WAKE ME UP... JUST LET ME DREAM!
POW
OR WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO LOOK EVEN MORE MENACING? I CAN DO IT, YOU KNOW!
GHAAA!
ATTABOY, PLAS! SCARE 'EM TO DEATH! HA-HA-HA! ISN'T MY PAL PLASTIC MAN TERRIFIC ?
HE SURE IS !
SOCK!
SOCK!
BUT EVEN PLASTIC MAN COULDN'T GET HERE IN TIME TO STOP ME FROM PULLING THIS TRIGGER! SO CALL OFF THAT RUBBER BLOODHOUND... OR GET USED TO WALKING AROUND WITH A HOLE IN YOUR HEAD!
ULP!
P-P-P-PLAS! I THINK HE M-MEANS IT!
I KNOW HE DOES! OKAY, BEETLE, YOU CAN CRAWL OFF WITH YOUR THUGS! BUT DON'T HARM WOOZY WINKS!
I'LL JUST TAKE HIM ALONG AS INSURANCE! IF WE SPOT YOU FOLLOWING US, PLASTIC MAN, SOMEBODY CAN START COLLECTING ON ALL THOSE PREMIUMS HE'S BEEN PAYING!
BEAT IT, BEETLE, BEFORE I CHANGE MY MIND!

YOU LET 'EM GET AWAY! WITH TWO HUNDRED GRAND IN PAYROLL MONEY!
I GOT WOOZY INTO THIS MESS! I COULDN'T LET THEM KILL HIM! BUT THEY HAVEN'T GOTTEN AWAY!
RRRRRR

YOU CAN'T FOLLOW THEM! IF THEY SEE YOU...
I'VE GOT A PLAN! THIS IS A CHEMICAL FACTORY, ISN'T IT?

I'LL JUST TAKE A FEW LUNGFULS OF THIS HELIUM COMPOUND!

AND ALL I NEED IS A SIGN ADVERTISING LA HORONO CIGARS! TA-TA!


THERE GOES THE ARMORED CAR NOW! THEY TOOK A LONELY HIGHWAY TO MAKE SURE THEY WEREN'T BEING FOLLOWED! BUT THEY CAN'T SEE ME UP HERE!

MEANWHILE...
NOBODY'S FOLLOWING US, BEETLE! THE ROAD'S CLEAR!
PLASTIC MAN'S DESERTED ME! HE'S THROWN ME AT THE MERCY OF THESE HUMAN WOLVES!
6

OKAY! THIS IS A GOOD PLACE TO DROP OFF KNOTHEAD!
POOR KNOTHEAD! IT MUST BE AN EIGHT HUNDRED FOOT FALL! I DON'T SEE HOW HE CAN POSSIBLY SURVIVE!

MAYBE YOU DIDN'T GET THE POINT, KNOTHEAD! YOU'RE GOING TO DO THE HIGH DIVING ACT!
ME? YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS! WHY, A PERSON CAN GET KILLED PULLING STUNTS LIKE THAT!
THE IDEA IS STARTING TO DAWN ON YOU, BIGBRAIN! SO LONG!
EEYOW!
THIS IS THE BITTER END! OH, HOW I WISH PLAS WOULD SHOW UP NOW!
HUH?
GOT YOU!
IS IT A BIRD? A BLIMP?
NO! IT'S PLASTIC MAN!
MY LI'L OLD MAGIC CUP!
POOOO
YOU'RE GOING TO BE BREAKING ROCKS THE REST OF YOUR LIFE, BEETLE! MIGHT AS WELL START GETTING USED TO IT!
THUNK!

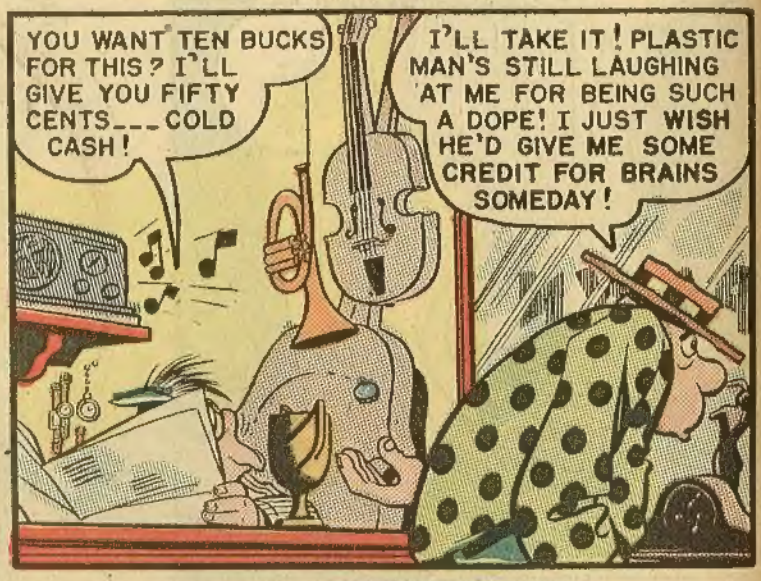
PLASTIC MAN

IT'S A LUCKY THING I MADE YOU SHOW UP WHEN YOU DID--- OR YOU NEVER WOULD HAVE CAPTURED BEETLE AND HIS GANG!
YOU MADE ME SHOW UP! WHERE DO YOU GET THAT IDEA ?
I GET THREE WISHES WITH MY MAGIC CUP! I HAD TO USE UP THE SECOND ONE TO BRING YOU HERE! BUT I'M GONNA SAVE MY THIRD WISH UNTIL I CAN THINK OF SOMETHING I REALLY WANT!
YOU REALLY BELIEVE THAT MAGIC CUP HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH MY TIMELY ARRIVAL ?
HAW-HAW-HAW! THAT'S THE SILLIEST THING I EVER HEARD! HAWW!
PLEASE DON'T OPEN YOUR MOUTH SO WIDE!

WHEN PLASTIC MAN EXPLAINS ---

YOU MEAN YOU WERE FOLLOWING ME ALL THE TIME ? AND-AND THIS CUP IS JUST AN OLD HUNK OF SILVERPLATE!
SOB!
I'M ASHAMED OF YOU, WOOZY--- FALLING FOR SUCH A FANTASTIC YARN! PEOPLE STOPPED BELIEVING IN MAGIC BACK IN THE MIDDLE AGES!

END SO, THE FOLLOWING MORNING, IN UNCLE BEN'S PAWNSHOP---


YOU WANT TEN BUCKS FOR THIS ? I'LL GIVE YOU FIFTY CENTS--- COLD CASH!
I'LL TAKE IT! PLASTIC MAN'S STILL LAUGHING AT ME FOR BEING SUCH A DOPE! I JUST WISH HE'D GIVE ME SOME CREDIT FOR BRAINS SOMEDAY!

FLASH! THE F.B.I. ANNOUNCED THE CAPTURE OF BEETLE BROWAN AND HIS HENCHMEN WHO ROBBED THE FACTORY PAYROLL YESTERDAY! PLASTIC MAN SAYS THAT EXTREMELY CLEVER DETECTIVE WORK BY WOOZY WINKS GREATLY AIDED IN THE CAPTURE!
HUH?

I WISHED---AND IT CAME TRUE! BUT I JUST KNOW PLASTIC MAN WILL NEVER BELIEVE IT! AND THAT WAS MY THIRD AND LAST WISH!
BAM!
KONK!
BAM! KONK!
TCH-TCH! TCH!
THIS MAGIC CUP WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE THE POWER TO GRANT THREE WISHES! A CHARMING LEGEND, PERHAPS, BUT OBVIOUSLY BEYOND THE REALM OF REASON! NO ONE BUT WOOZY WINKS WOULD HAVE BELIEVED IT---

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extra features...extra fun...extra Merry Christmas!

Any bike will make Christmas morning a merry morning, but it takes AMF Roadmaster to make it an extra merry Christmas.

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Please send free bike hike booklet with helpful hints on map-reading, bike hike ideas and games, things to take along.

NAME _____

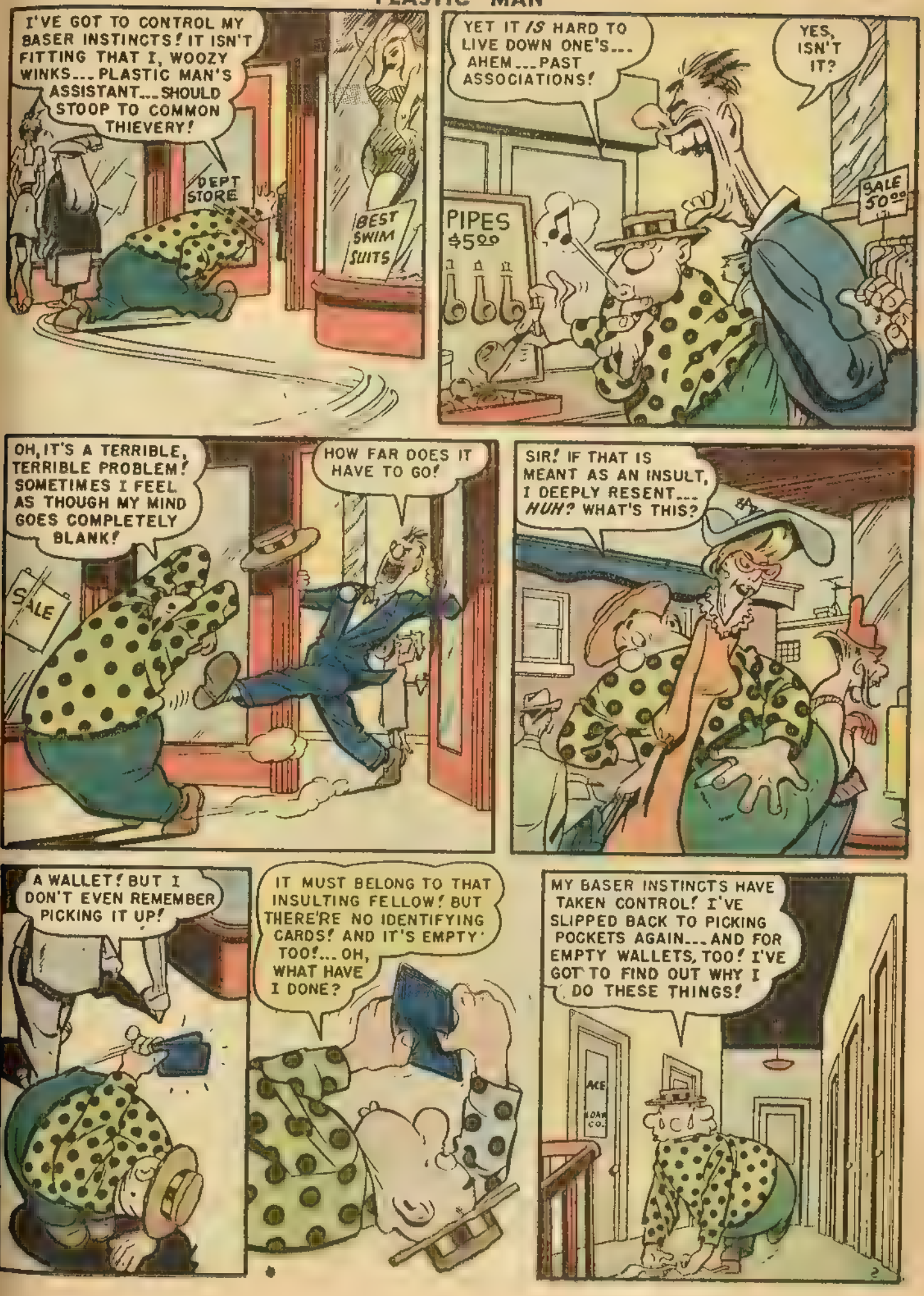
ADDRESS _____

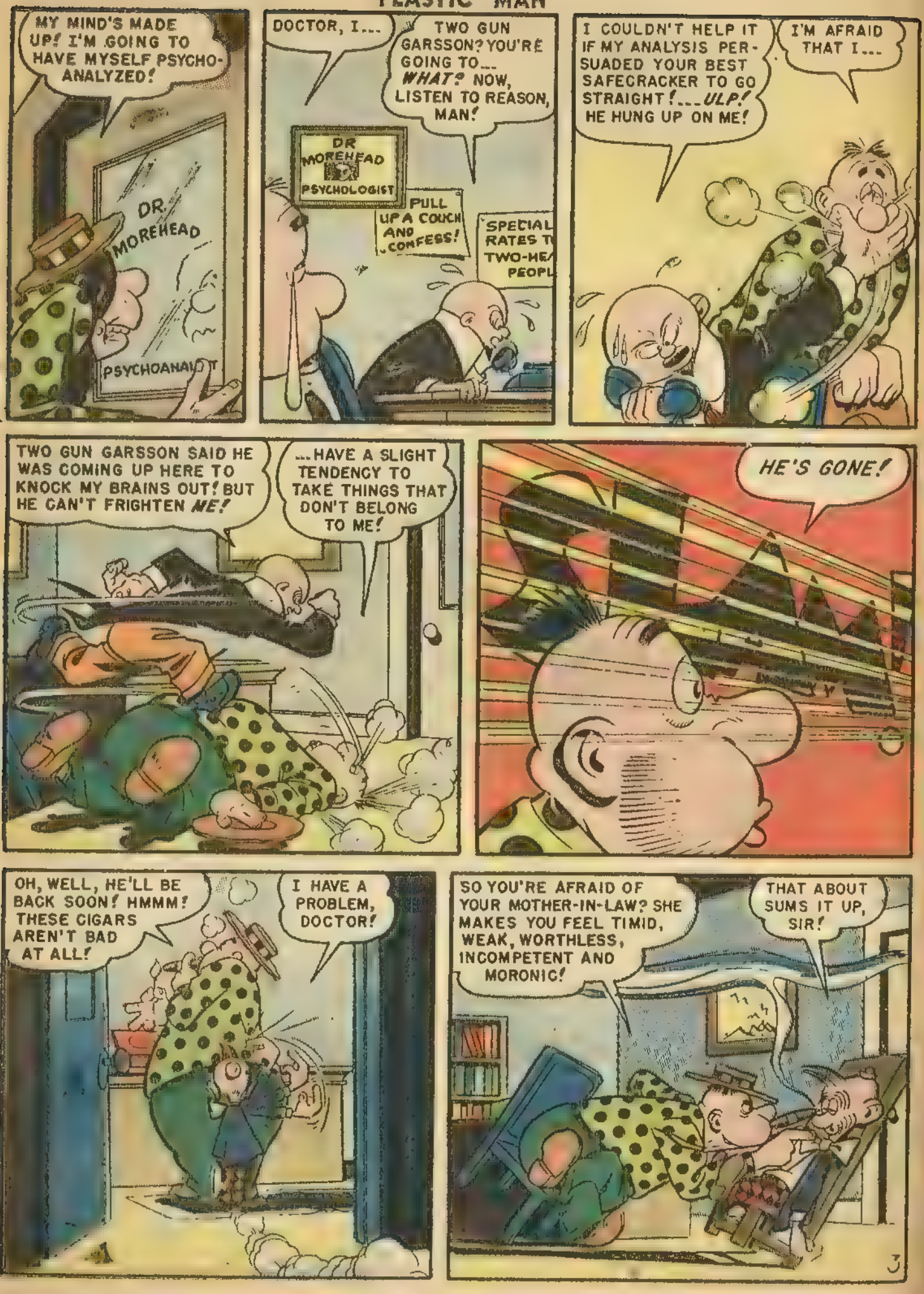
CITY _____ ZONE ____ STATE _____

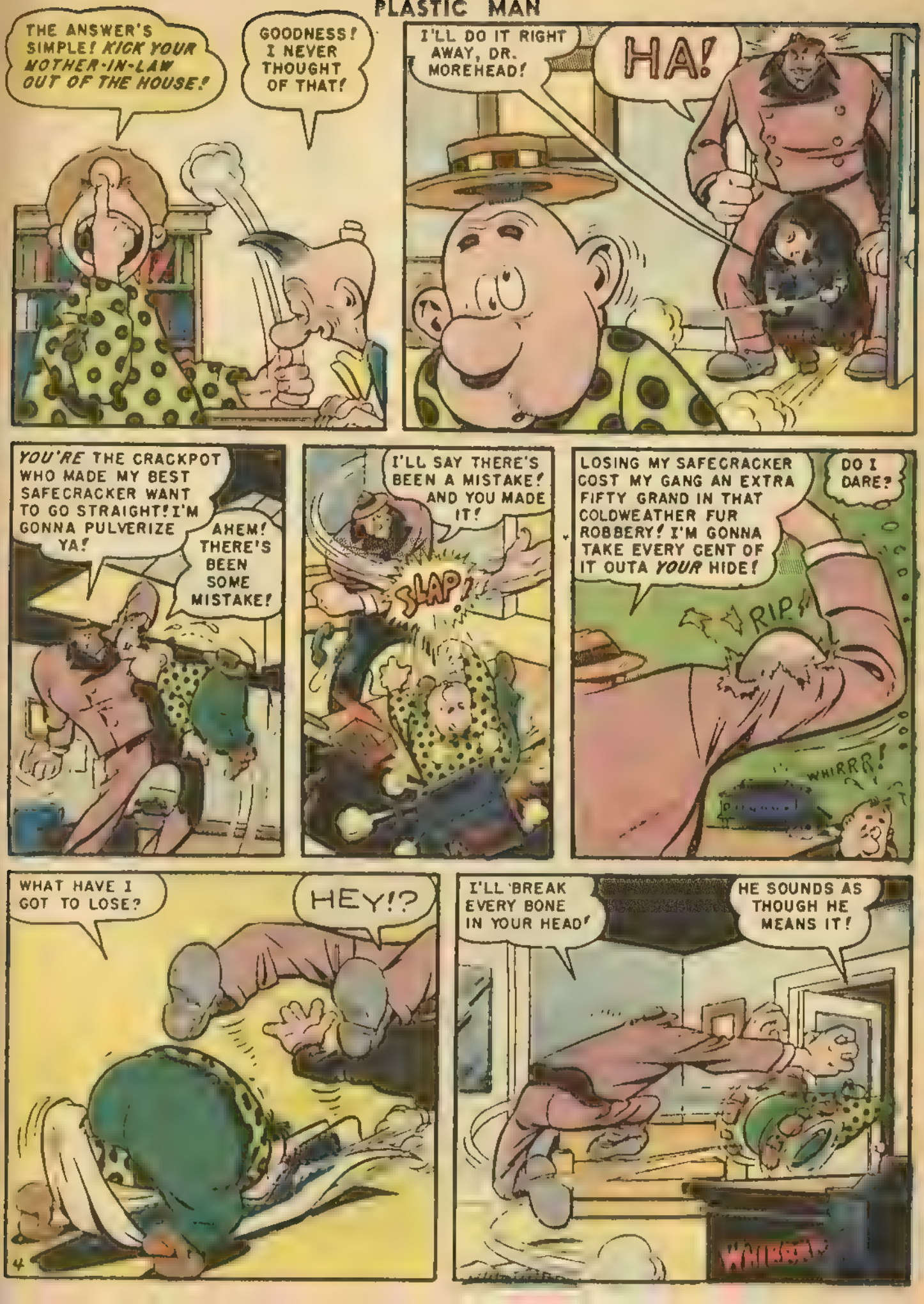
NAME OF B CYCLE DEALER _____

HIS ADDRESS _____

WOOZY
MY DEAR FELLOW, THERE'S ONLY ONE REASON WHY YOU ARE SUFFERING FROM AN INFERIORITY COMPLEX! YOU ARE INFERIOR!
SOB!
Dr. Woozy Winks Psychoanalyst
NO! NO! NO!
SLAP! SLAP!
I AM BLIND
I WON'T DO IT! ONLY A BOUNDER WOULD TAKE PENNIES FROM A BLIND MAN!
IT'S LUCKY YOU DIDN'T TRY IT, YOU BOUNDER!
I AM BLIND


I'VE GOT TO CONTROL MY BASER INSTINCTS! IT ISN'T FITTING THAT I, WOOZY WINKS... PLASTIC MAN'S ASSISTANT... SHOULD STOOP TO COMMON THIEVERY!
DEPT STORE
BEST SWIM SUITS
YET IT IS HARD TO LIVE DOWN ONE'S... AHEM... PAST ASSOCIATIONS!
YES, ISN'T IT?
PIPES $5.00
SALE 50.00
OH, IT'S A TERRIBLE, TERRIBLE PROBLEM! SOMETIMES I FEEL AS THOUGH MY MIND GOES COMPLETELY BLANK!
SALE
HOW FAR DOES IT HAVE TO GO!
SIR! IF THAT IS MEANT AS AN INSULT, I DEEPLY RESENT... HUH? WHAT'S THIS?
A WALLET! BUT I DON'T EVEN REMEMBER PICKING IT UP!
IT MUST BELONG TO THAT INSULTING FELLOW! BUT THERE'RE NO IDENTIFYING CARDS! AND IT'S EMPTY TOO!... OH, WHAT HAVE I DONE?
MY BASER INSTINCTS HAVE TAKEN CONTROL! I'VE SLIPPED BACK TO PICKING POCKETS AGAIN... AND FOR EMPTY WALLETS, TOO! I'VE GOT TO FIND OUT WHY I DO THESE THINGS!
ACE LOAN CO.


MY MIND'S MADE UP! I'M GOING TO HAVE MYSELF PSYCHO-ANALYZED!
DR. MOREHEAD
PSYCHOANALYST
DOCTOR, I...
TWO GUN GARSSON? YOU'RE GOING TO... WHAT? NOW, LISTEN TO REASON, MAN!
DR MOREHEAD PSYCHOLOGIST
PULL UP A COUCH AND CONFESS!
SPECIAL RATES T TWO-HE/ PEOPL
I COULDN'T HELP IT IF MY ANALYSIS PERSUADED YOUR BEST SAFECRACKER TO GO STRAIGHT!... ULP! HE HUNG UP ON ME!
I'M AFRAID THAT I...
TWO GUN GARSSON SAID HE WAS COMING UP HERE TO KNOCK MY BRAINS OUT! BUT HE CAN'T FRIGHTEN ME!
...HAVE A SLIGHT TENDENCY TO TAKE THINGS THAT DON'T BELONG TO ME!
HE'S GONE!
OH, WELL, HE'LL BE BACK SOON! HMMM! THESE CIGARS AREN'T BAD AT ALL!
I HAVE A PROBLEM, DOCTOR!
SO YOU'RE AFRAID OF YOUR MOTHER-IN-LAW? SHE MAKES YOU FEEL TIMID, WEAK, WORTHLESS, INCOMPETENT AND MORONIC!
THAT ABOUT SUMS IT UP, SIR!


THE ANSWER'S SIMPLE! KICK YOUR MOTHER-IN-LAW OUT OF THE HOUSE!
GOODNESS! I NEVER THOUGHT OF THAT!
I'LL DO IT RIGHT AWAY, DR. MOREHEAD!
HA!
YOU'RE THE CRACKPOT WHO MADE MY BEST SAFECRACKER WANT TO GO STRAIGHT! I'M GONNA PULVERIZE YA!
AHEM! THERE'S BEEN SOME MISTAKE!
I'LL SAY THERE'S BEEN A MISTAKE! AND YOU MADE IT!
SLAP!
LOSING MY SAFECRACKER COST MY GANG AN EXTRA FIFTY GRAND IN THAT COLDWEATHER FUR ROBBERY! I'M GONNA TAKE EVERY CENT OF IT OUTA YOUR HIDE!
DO I DARE?
RIP!
WHIRRR!
WHAT HAVE I GOT TO LOSE?
HEY!?
I'LL BREAK EVERY BONE IN YOUR HEAD!
HE SOUNDS AS THOUGH HE MEANS IT!
WHIRR!
4

BOINNNNG!
PARDON ME! I DIDN'T MEAN TO SLAM THE DOOR IN YOUR FACE! URGH!
GOT YOU!
ZIP
ULP! WON'T YOU GRANT A DYING ≥GASP≤ MAN ONE LAST WORD?
OKAY! GO AHEAD! WHAT IS IT?
HELP!
THAT'S HIM!
AND SOON...
TAKING DOWN GARSSON'S CONFESSION ABOUT THE COLD-WEATHER FUR ROBBERY WAS BRILLIANT THINKING! YOU'LL GET A REWARD FOR THIS!
HMM! I CAN'T SEEM TO REMEMBER TURNING ON THE RECORDING MACHINE! AND THAT REMINDS ME OF SOMETHING ELSE I FORGOT!
DICTAPHONE
THIS IS IT! A SALES SLIP...PROVING I BOUGHT THE WALLET THAT I THOUGHT I STOLE! I DON'T NEED TO BE PSYCHOANALYZED, AFTER ALL!
TSK! TSK! I WOULDN'T JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS IF I WERE YOU!
DR. MC PSCHO
IMAGINE THE NERVE! TRYING TO CONVINCE ME I NEED MENTAL TREATMENT! WHY, I'M AS GOOD A PSYCHOANALYST AS HE IS, ANY DAY!
ONE FLIGHT UP
THERE YOU ARE!
YOU AND YOUR ADVICE! MY MOTHER-IN LAW THREW ME OUT OF THE HOUSE! BUT NOT UNTIL SHE PRACTICALLY CRIPPLED ME FOR LIFE!
EYOW!
BAM!
BAM!
CITY LIMITS

A Lesson Well Learned

THE Professor" watched the six men file into the room and take seats facing him and the blackboard. "A motley group," he muttered to himself bitterly, "but they'll have to do." The men said nothing to each other, but remained attentive until "The Professor" broke the silence.

"Now if you gentlemen are ready to begin, I'll continue from where I left off. I was telling you about the job I pulled at the Second National Bank in Albany back in '36. It won acclaim as the slickest safe-cracking operation in police records."

"The Professor" talked on in the most unique lecture these six men had ever heard They were learning from one of the country's experts how to open a combination safe and escape unmolested with the loot. Each week "The Professor" held class, and he was as strict as any college professor might be. His lecture was as scholarly as if he were discussing the decline of the Roman Empire, and he didn't fail to hold periodic examinations to test his students. Because of this severe training, the police had been baffled for years by the magic formula that made any safe within the vicinity a pushover for this notorious gang of criminals.

Some of his men had objected to the schoolroom approach to learning and openly rebelled, but they soon learned that it wasn't wise to argue with "The Professor." He reigned supreme, and no one had the last word except himself.

He did have pet pupils though, and when he spotted someone he felt was bright and talented, he coddled him as if he were a precious stone. Of the six men in the class, Sid Russell fell into "The Professor's" favorite group. He had the highest marks of anyone in the class and always showed interest in whatever "The Professor" had to say.

"You were the only one to make a perfect mark on the last examination, Sid," beamed "The Professor." "If you keep up your record, you'll be in the big money someday."

"Thanks, Professor," Sid smiled modestly. "I can't lose. Ain't you the best teacher a guy could have?"

Flattery had a certain effect on "The Professor" too. He felt justified in being conceited about his own cleverness and enjoyed any recognition paid to his ingenuity. "This Sid Russell is going straight to the top of the racket," he said to himself, "I know a big time operator when I see him."

The day "The Professor" got a hot tip about the money-packed safe at the Simmon's Storage Company, he decided to give Sid a few pointers in action. Even at that very moment Sid knew more than some of the men who'd been with "The Professor" for years.

"Okay, Sid," he said. "I'm going to take you with me this time and show you how an expert works on the job. I've got everything planned —we can't lose."

Sid eagerly leaned over a sketch that "The Professor" had made of the Simmon's office, memorizing in a few moments every detail.

"Smart! That's what you are!" "The Professor" marvelled. "I've never met a fellow like you!"

Eleven o'clock that night was the zero hour and Sid and "The Professor" slowly drank a cup of coffee in a nearby restaurant and watched a big electric clock over the counter. A few minutes before the appointed time, they paid their check and left. They had only half a block to walk, but to avoid attracting attention, they kept a moderate pace. At exactly eleven, they passed a gagged guard whom another member of "The Professor's" gang had tied up, and they headed toward the front office and the safe. Both "The Professor" and Sid worked cautiously, making certain that any wire that could warn the police had been cut. In a few moments they stood in front of the safe breathing more easily.

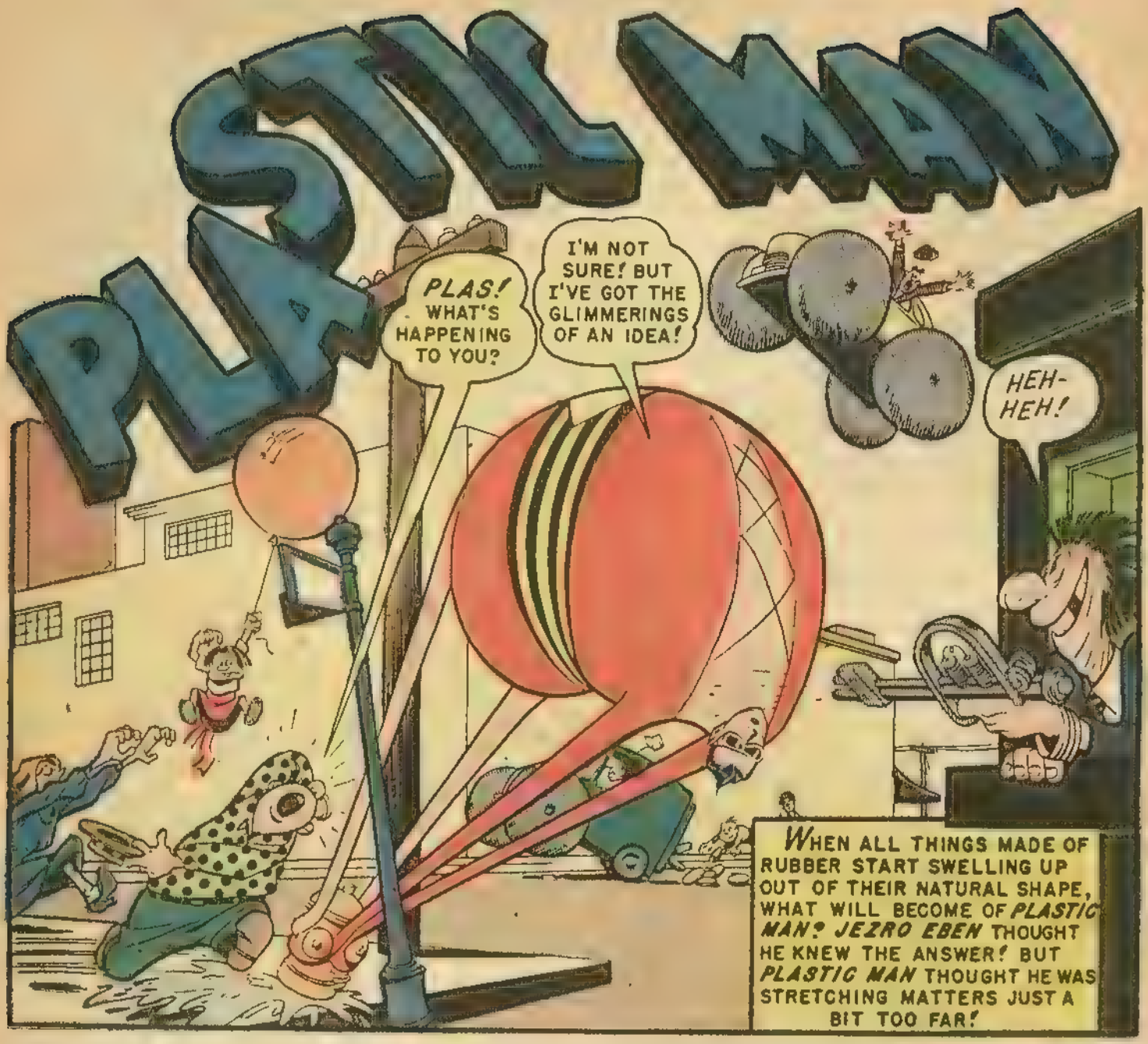
"Good work," said the excited "Professor." "Now stand back and just watch me!"

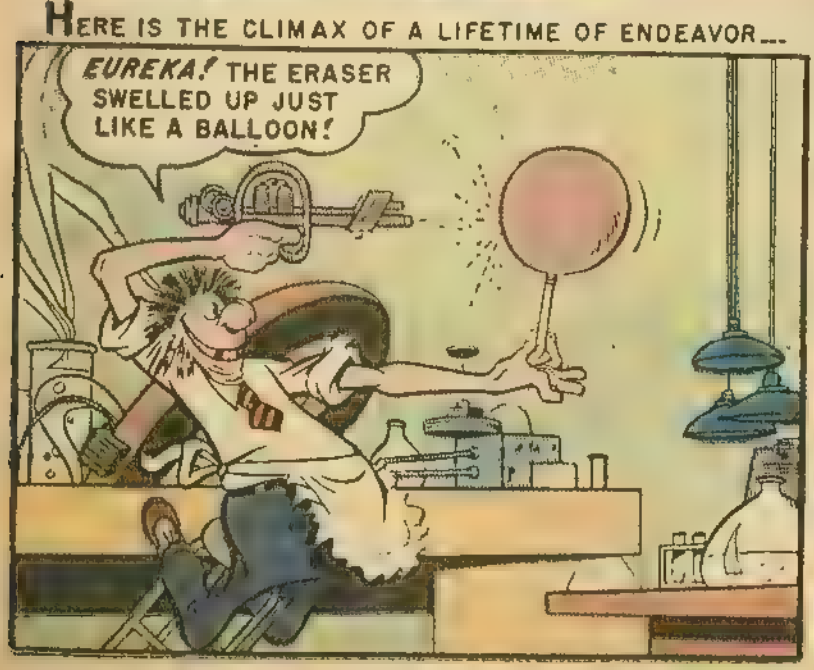
He leaned his head down toward the combination and listened intently for the tumblers. 64-10-34-78—open! He greedily reached inside and pulled out a number of small packages filled with bills. Hastily he began to shove the packages into a black collapsible bag he had carried with him. When he closed the bag, the lights went on!

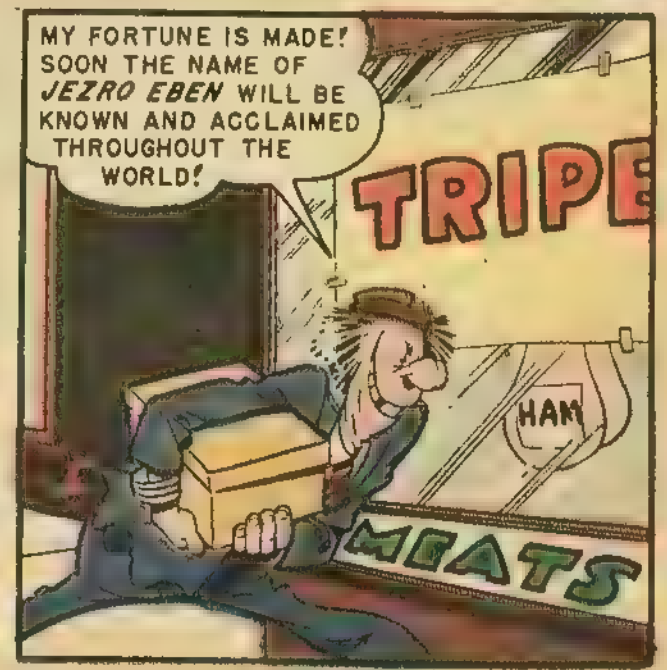
"What does this mean?" he asked, eyeing Sid and three strange men holding revolvers.

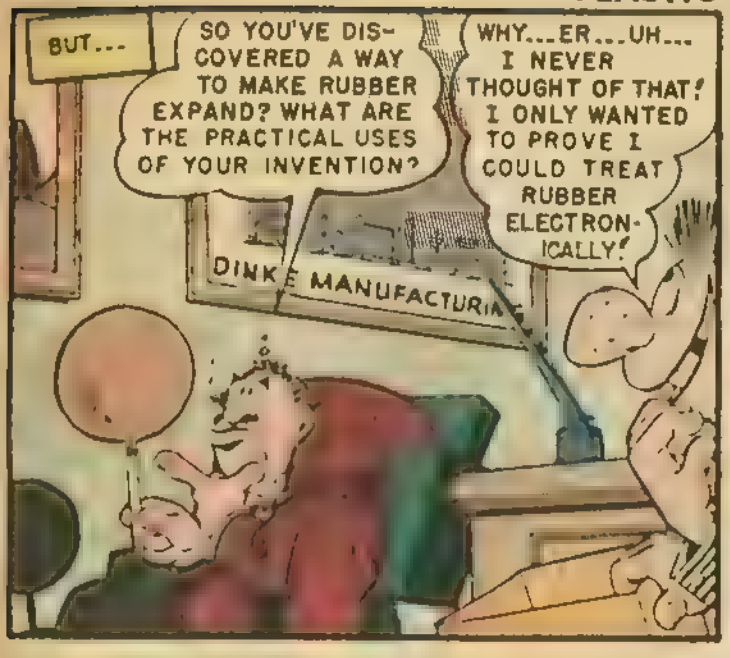
"This means, Professor," said Sid, "that I'm Sergeant Russell of Police Headquarters and you are under arrest We've been after you for a long time—but I think we can plan on having you around for an even longer time!"

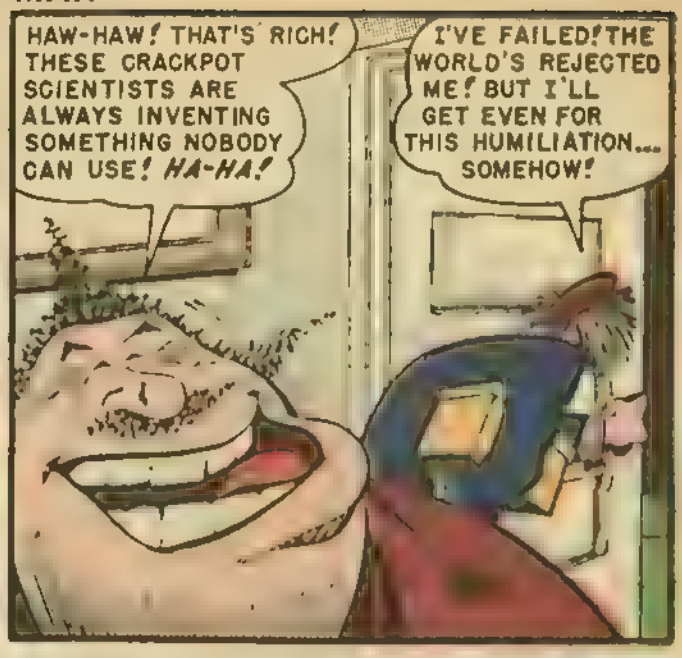
"The Professor" shook his head unbelievingly. "I never thought a cop would trick me," he said. "Russell, you're not just smart! You're a downright genius!"

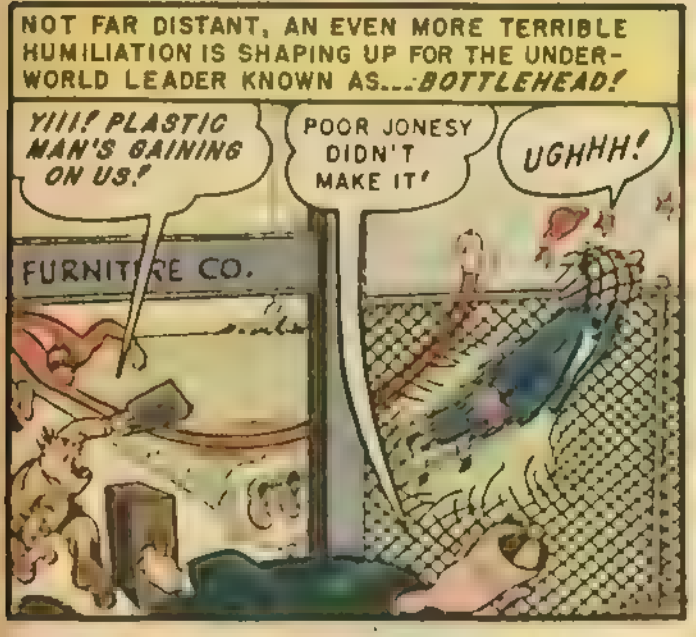

PLASTIC MAN
PLAS! WHAT'S HAPPENING TO YOU?
I'M NOT SURE! BUT I'VE GOT THE GLIMMERINGS OF AN IDEA!
HEH-HEH!
WHEN ALL THINGS MADE OF RUBBER START SWELLING UP OUT OF THEIR NATURAL SHAPE, WHAT WILL BECOME OF PLASTIC MAN? JEZRO EBEN THOUGHT HE KNEW THE ANSWER! BUT PLASTIC MAN THOUGHT HE WAS STRETCHING MATTERS JUST A BIT TOO FAR!

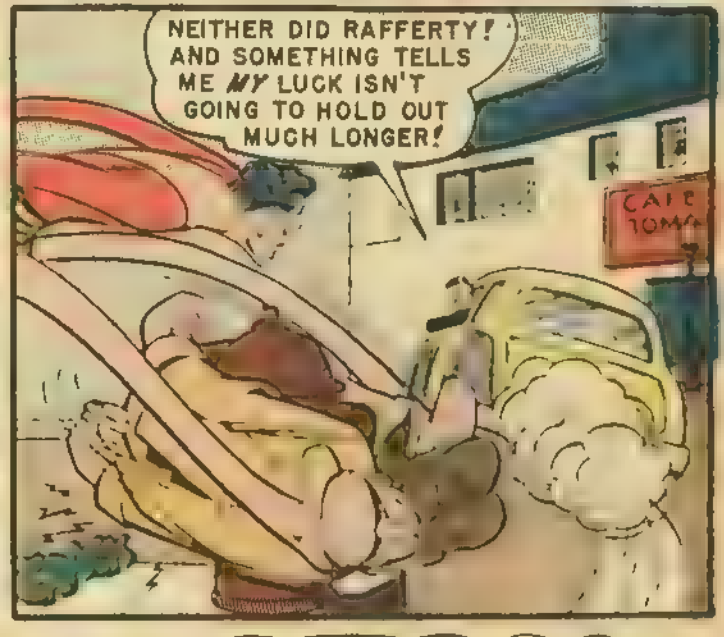

HERE IS THE CLIMAX OF A LIFETIME OF ENDEAVOR...
EUREKA! THE ERASER SWELLED UP JUST LIKE A BALLOON!


MY FORTUNE IS MADE! SOON THE NAME OF JEZRO EBEN WILL BE KNOWN AND ACCLAIMED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD!
TRIPE
HAM
MEATS

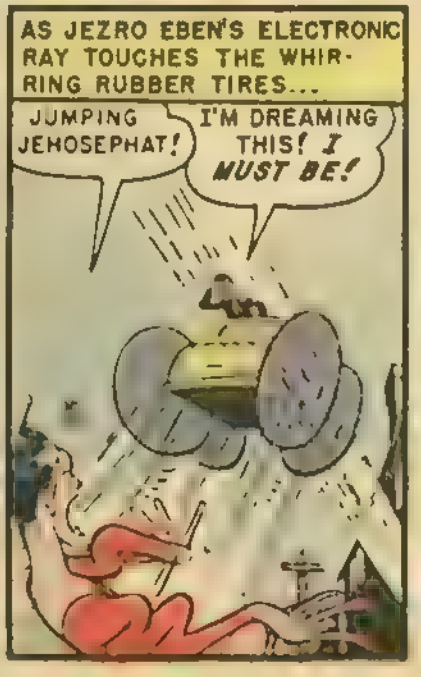

BUT...
SO YOU'VE DISCOVERED A WAY TO MAKE RUBBER EXPAND? WHAT ARE THE PRACTICAL USES OF YOUR INVENTION?
WHY...ER...UH... I NEVER THOUGHT OF THAT! I ONLY WANTED TO PROVE I COULD TREAT RUBBER ELECTRONICALLY!
DINK MANUFACTURIN

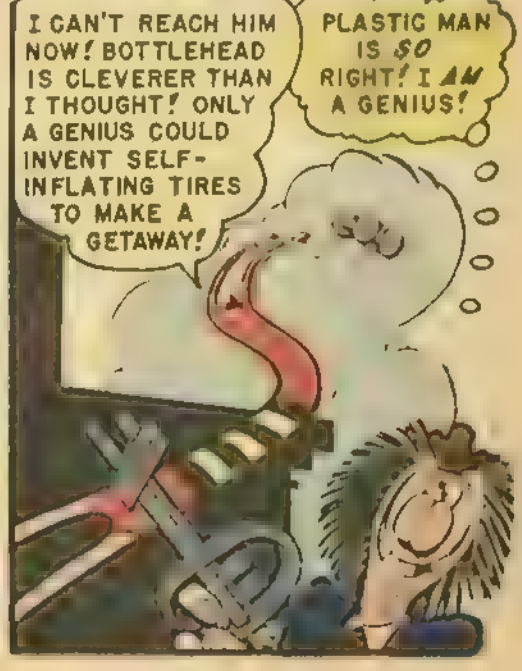

HAW-HAW! THAT'S RICH! THESE CRACKPOT SCIENTISTS ARE ALWAYS INVENTING SOMETHING NOBODY CAN USE! HA-HA!
I'VE FAILED! THE WORLD'S REJECTED ME! BUT I'LL GET EVEN FOR THIS HUMILIATION... SOMEHOW!


NOT FAR DISTANT, AN EVEN MORE TERRIBLE HUMILIATION IS SHAPING UP FOR THE UNDERWORLD LEADER KNOWN AS...BOTTLEHEAD!
YIII! PLASTIC MAN'S GAINING ON US!
POOR JONESY DIDN'T MAKE IT!
UGHHH!
FURNITURE CO.

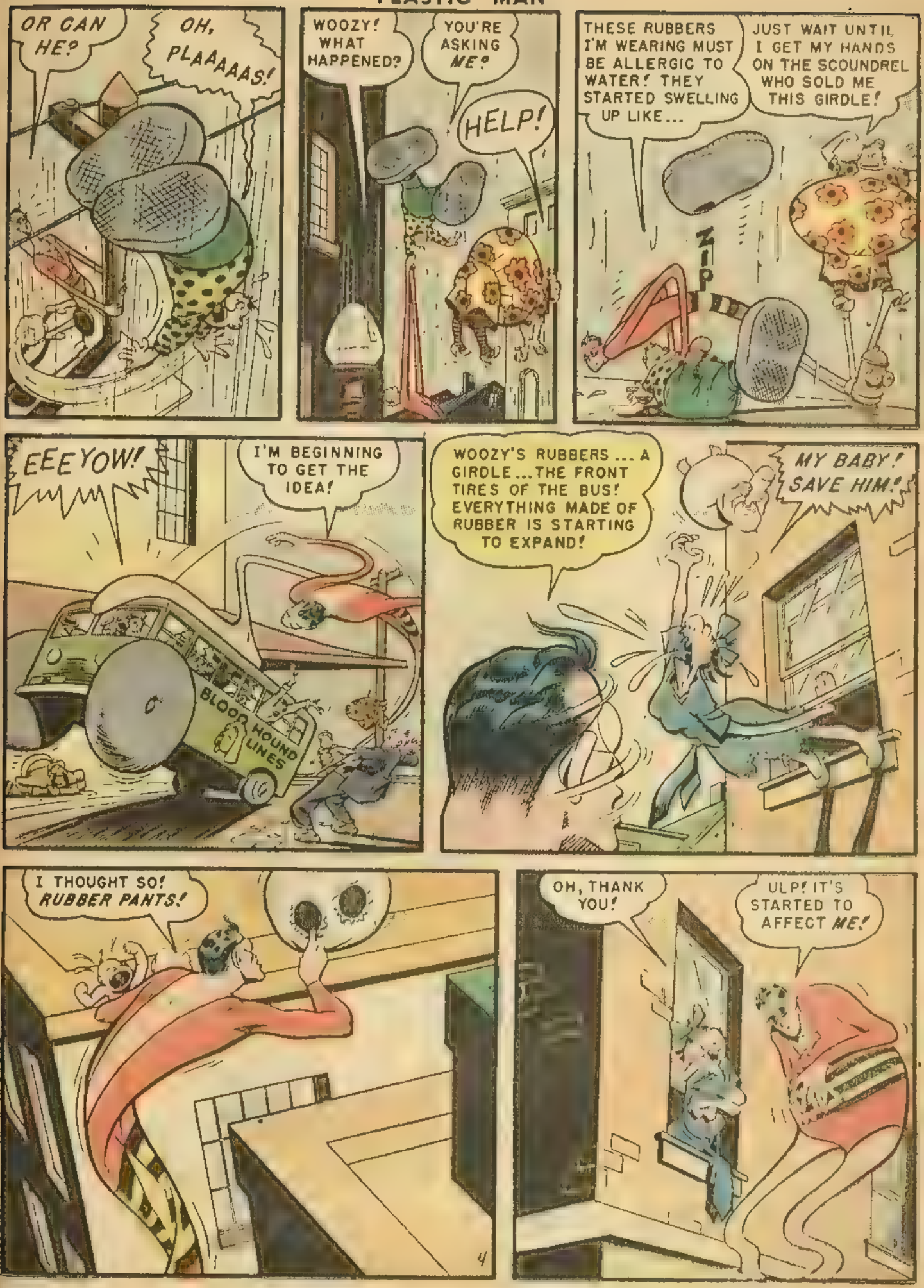

NEITHER DID RAFFERTY! AND SOMETHING TELLS ME MY LUCK ISN'T GOING TO HOLD OUT MUCH LONGER!
CAFE TOMA

HMM! PLASTIC MAN IS OBVIOUSLY PURSUING SOME CRIMINAL! HERE'S MY CHANCE TO PROVE MY ELECTRONIC GUN HAS A PRACTICAL USE!


AS JEZRO EBEN'S ELECTRONIC RAY TOUCHES THE WHIRRING RUBBER TIRES...
JUMPING JEHOSEPHAT!
I'M DREAMING THIS! I MUST BE!


I CAN'T REACH HIM NOW! BOTTLEHEAD IS CLEVERER THAN I THOUGHT! ONLY A GENIUS COULD INVENT SELF-INFLATING TIRES TO MAKE A GETAWAY!
PLASTIC MAN IS SO RIGHT! I AM A GENIUS!

AT LAST I'VE FOUND RECOGNITION! IF MY INVENTION ONLY HAS PRACTICAL VALUE AS AN AID TO CRIME, THEN *CRIME* IS THE BUSINESS FOR ME!
LATER, AT A SPOT SEVERAL MILES DISTANT...
HERE HE COMES! RIGHT ON TIME!
I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU, BOTTLE-HEAD!
WH-WHO ARE YOU? HOW'D YOU KNOW WHERE TO FIND ME?
SIMPLE! I ONLY GAVE YOUR RUBBER TIRES A SHORT TREATMENT WITH MY ELECTRONIC GUN! I MERELY CALCULATED WHEN THE EFFECTS OF THE EXPANSION WOULD WEAR OFF AND BRING YOUR CAR TO EARTH AGAIN!
HMM! START FROM THE BEGINNING, AND GO SLOWER THIS TIME!
AND WHEN JEZRO EBEN EXPLAINS...
MISTER, IF THAT GADGET OF YOURS CAN ONLY DO *HALF* THE THINGS YOU SAY IT WILL, YOU AND ME ARE GONNA BE MILLIONAIRES!
PRECISELY WHAT I WAS DRIVING AT! WITH MY GENIUS AND YOUR... UH... EXPERIENCE, WE CAN'T FAIL!
SEVERAL DAYS LATER...
I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT! NO WORD'S BEEN RECEIVED ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO BOTTLEHEAD!
A MAN JUST CAN'T FLY OFF INTO THE AIR AND DISAPPEAR!
?
3

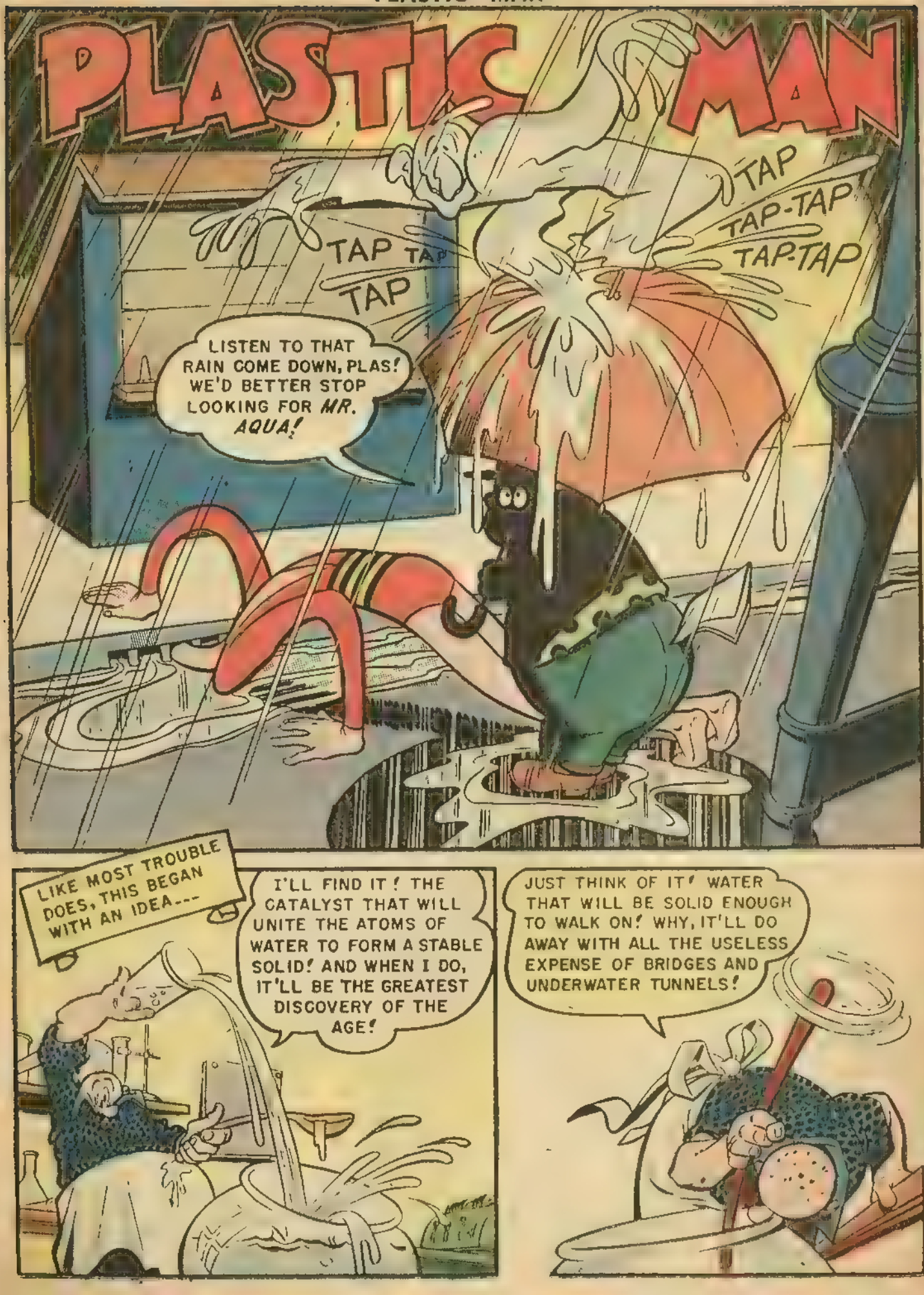

OR CAN HE?
OH, PLAAAAAS!
WOOZY! WHAT HAPPENED?
YOU'RE ASKING ME?
HELP!
THESE RUBBERS I'M WEARING MUST BE ALLERGIC TO WATER! THEY STARTED SWELLING UP LIKE...
JUST WAIT UNTIL I GET MY HANDS ON THE SCOUNDREL WHO SOLD ME THIS GIRDLE!
ZIP
EEEYOW!
I'M BEGINNING TO GET THE IDEA!
BLOOD HOUND LINES
WOOZY'S RUBBERS ... A GIRDLE ... THE FRONT TIRES OF THE BUS! EVERYTHING MADE OF RUBBER IS STARTING TO EXPAND!
MY BABY! SAVE HIM!
I THOUGHT SO! RUBBER PANTS!
OH, THANK YOU!
ULP! IT'S STARTED TO AFFECT ME!

THIS IS GETTING RIDICULOUS!
ULP! THE EXPANSION HAS MADE MY SURFACE AREA LIGHTER THAN AIR! I'M STARTING TO FLY!
THERE! I CAN HOLD ON FOR AWHILE!
I'VE GOT ONE HERE SOMEPLACE! I KNOW I HAVE!
AH! HERE IT IS!
I'LL RISK IT, WOOZY! GO AHEAD!
AHHH! THAT'S BETTER!
SSSS
SSSS
SSS
AND SOON---
MY RUBBERS SHRANK AGAIN!
WHATEVER CAUSED THE TROUBLE ONLY HAD TEMPORARY EFFECTS! THANK GOODNESS FOR THAT!
PLUNK!
COME ON! I'D BETTER REPORT THIS TO HEADQUARTERS!
5

BUT WHEN PLASTIC MAN REACHES FBI HEADQUARTERS...
MORE PHONE CALLS POURING IN! THEY'RE ALL REPORTING TROUBLE WITH THE NEW RUBBER BLIGHT! THEY DEMAND WE DO SOMETHING TO STOP IT!
WHAT'S CAUSING IT, CHIEF?
RINGG
DING
DINGALINGG
RRRR
RING
PRRR
RING!
RRR
RRING
OUR LAB TECHNICIANS REPORT IT'S SOME KIND OF ELECTRONIC RAY THAT CAUSES THE MOLECULES OF RUBBER TO EXPAND! THIS IS THE FELLOW WHO'S BEHIND IT!
A BLACKMAIL PLOT!
RING
POP
Dear Sir.
You've only had a few small, local samples of what I can do with rubber! Unless $1,000,000 is paid to me, I'll cause the same thing to happen at once all over the city!
Jezro Eben
HE ENCLOSED FULL DETAILS ON HOW HE WANTS THE MONEY TO BE PAID! WHAT CAN WE DO, PLASTIC MAN?
THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO! PAY IT!
NEXT DAY...
JEZRO EBEN'S CLEVER! HE'S ARRANGED FOR AN AERIAL PICK-UP OF THE MONEY!
HERE COMES A PLANE NOW!
IT'S JEZRO EBEN! HE'S GOT THE MONEY!
ZOOM
WE CAN'T EVEN FOLLOW THE PLANE! I HOPE PLASTIC MAN KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING!
ONE MILLION SMACKERS! GONE WITH THE BREEZE!
PLOP!
6

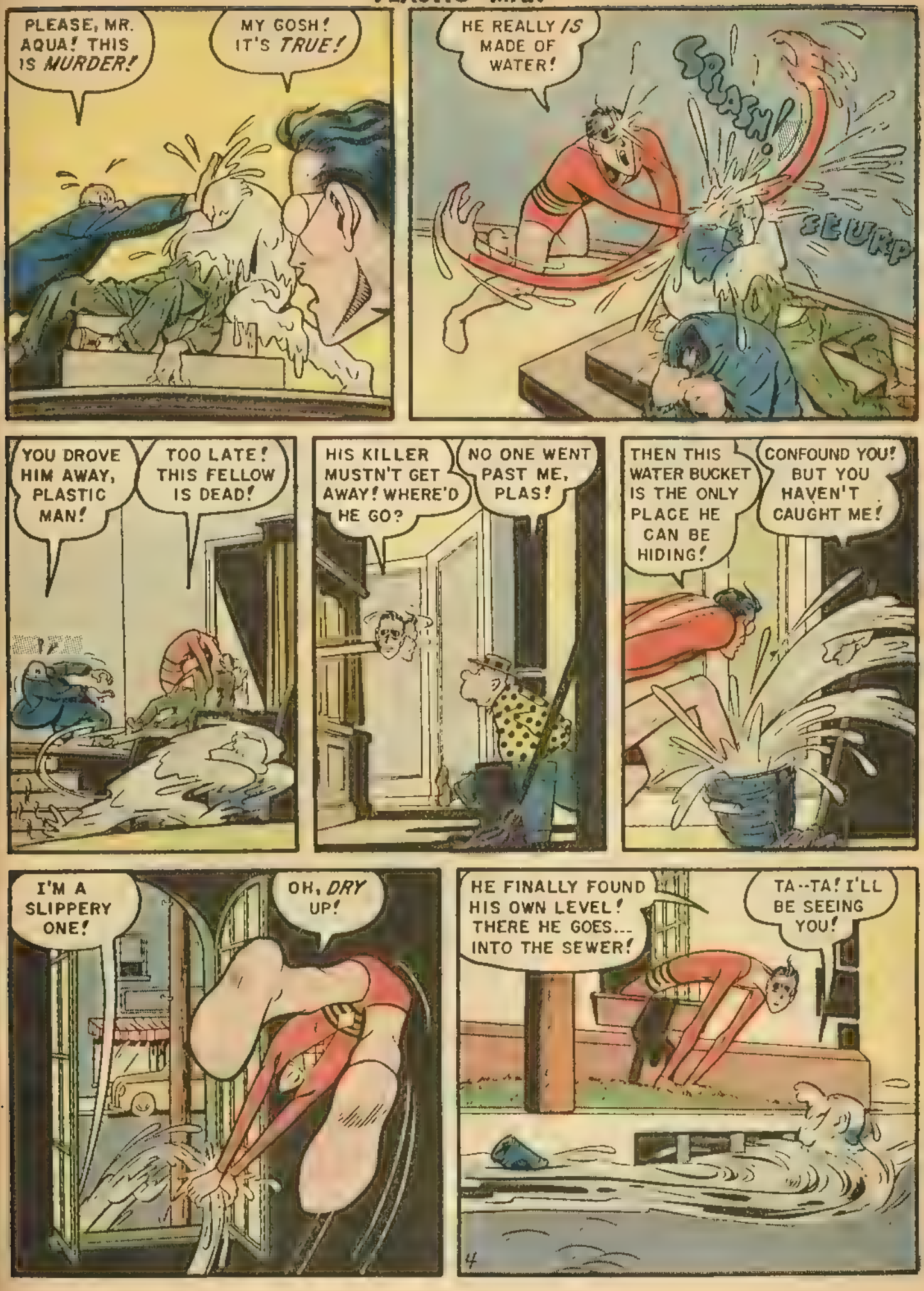
I GOTTA GIVE YOU CREDIT, JEZRO! THEY PAID OFF... JUST THE WAY YOU SAID!
THEY DIDN'T DARE TO DEFY ME!
AFTER ALL, THEY KNEW WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF I TURNED LOOSE MY ELECTRONIC CANNON ON THE WHOLE CITY! HEH-HEH!
JEZRO!
WHEW! FOR A MINUTE I THOUGHT THE SACK WAS JUST LOADED WITH SCRAP PAPER; BUT I FOUND THE CHECK FOR A MILLION BUCKS!
A CHECK?
SURE! IT'S MADE OUT TO YOU... AND ME!
YOU FOOL!
WE DON'T DARE WALK INTO A BANK AND CASH THAT CHECK! THEY'D ARREST US IN A MINUTE!
SAY, WE'VE BEEN DOUBLE-CROSSED!
I'LL MAKE THEM SORRY FOR THIS! ONE BLAST FROM MY ELECTRONIC CANNON WILL THROW THE WHOLE CITY INTO CHAOS!
I DON'T BELIEVE YOU'RE PLAYING FAIR, JEZRO!
HUH?
PLASTIC MAN!
AFTER ALL, WE DID PAY OFF!

I THINK IT'S QUITE FITTING THAT YOU SHOULD BE PAID OFF WITH A RUBBER CHECK!
GLUGG!
WHAP!
I'LL FIX YOU! ONE BLAST AT THIS RANGE WILL MAKE YOU EXPLODE LIKE A TOY BALLOON!
WHOOM!
WHAT AN UGLY THOUGHT!
BONG
YOU'RE A THOROUGHLY UNPLEASANT LITTLE MAN!
AMAZING WHAT HE CAN DO WITH THOSE RUBBER ARMS OF HIS, ISN'T IT?
BAH! DON'T EVEN MENTION THE WORD RUBBER TO ME AGAIN!
LATER, WHEN JEZRO EBEN AND BOTTLEHEAD HAVE BEEN TURNED OVER TO THE POLICE...
PLAS!
DID YOU SEE THAT BALLOON? IT LOOKED JUST LIKE YOU WHEN....
I'D RATHER NOT DISCUSS IT, WOOZY! IT'LL BE A LONG TIME BEFORE I CAN SEE ONE OF THOSE BALLOONS WITHOUT REMEMBERING HOW IT FELT TO BE ONE!


PLASTIC MAN
TAP TAP TAP
TAP
TAP-TAP
TAP-TAP
LISTEN TO THAT RAIN COME DOWN, PLAS! WE'D BETTER STOP LOOKING FOR MR. AQUA!
LIKE MOST TROUBLE DOES, THIS BEGAN WITH AN IDEA---
I'LL FIND IT! THE CATALYST THAT WILL UNITE THE ATOMS OF WATER TO FORM A STABLE SOLID! AND WHEN I DO, IT'LL BE THE GREATEST DISCOVERY OF THE AGE!
JUST THINK OF IT! WATER THAT WILL BE SOLID ENOUGH TO WALK ON! WHY, IT'LL DO AWAY WITH ALL THE USELESS EXPENSE OF BRIDGES AND UNDERWATER TUNNELS!

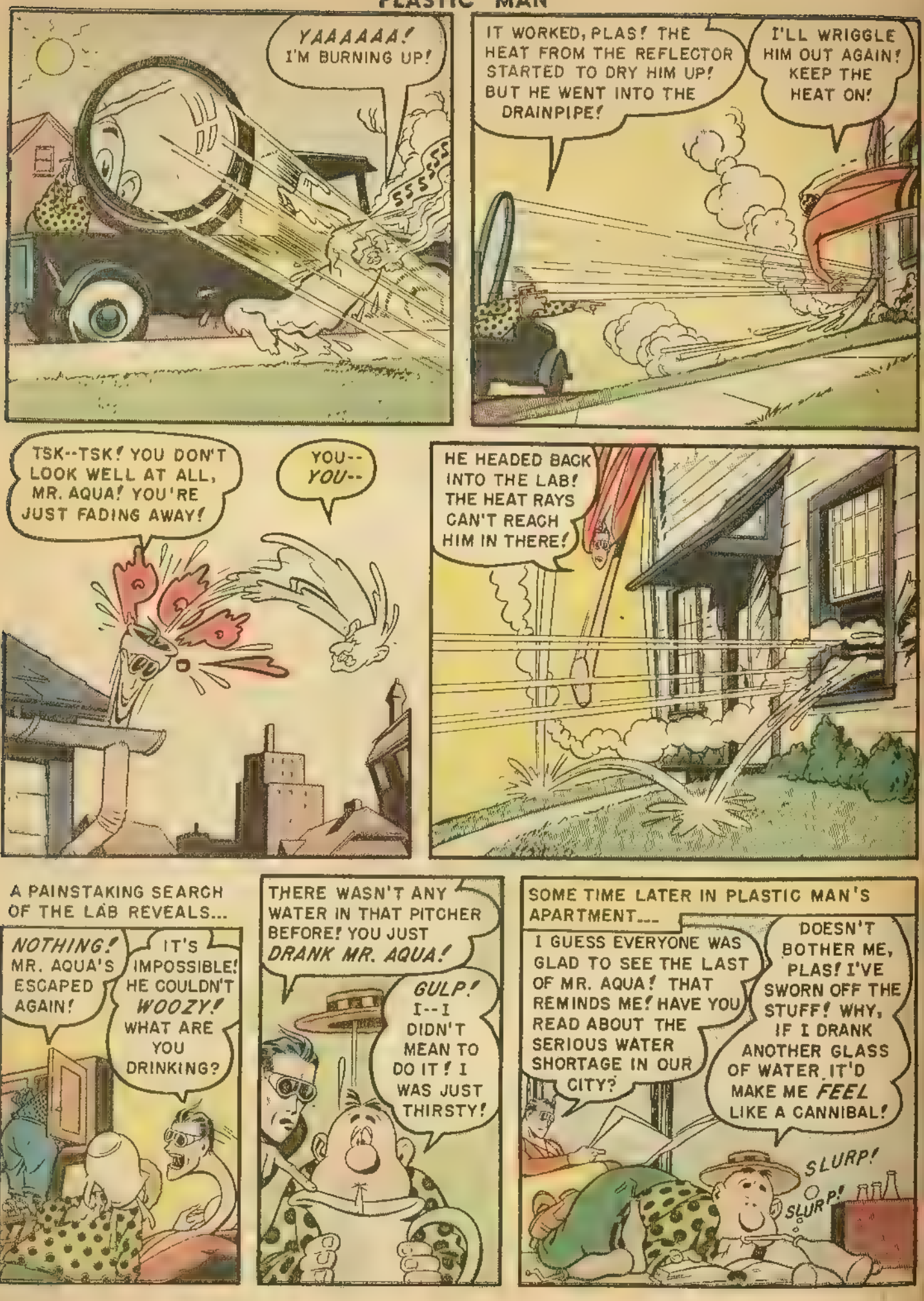
PEOPLE WILL BE ABLE TO DRIVE ACROSS THE OCEANS IN THEIR AUTOMOBILES! THE NAME OF *DUNCAN GROAT* WILL BE FAMOUS!
PLOP! PLOP!
SOMETHING'S WRONG! SOME OF THE CHEMICALS IN THOSE VIALS FELL INTO MY TEST FLUID! IT LOOKS AS THOUGH IT'S GOING TO...
BOOM!
AND WHEN THE SMOKE OF THE EXPLOSION CLEARS...
WH--WHO ARE YOU?
HOW SHOULD I KNOW? *YOU* MADE *ME!*
A WATER CREATURE! IT'S FANTASTIC! SOMEHOW THOSE CHEMICALS UNITED WITH WATER TO FORM CORPUSCULAR LIFE!
SKIP THE BIG WORDS! THE QUESTION IS, WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO, NOW?
DO? THERE'S A MEETING OF THE SCIENCE COUNCIL GOING ON RIGHT NOW! YOU AND I ARE GOING TO GIVE THEM THE SHOCK OF THEIR LIVES!
STOP SPLASHING ME ALL UP! I'M NOT MADE OUT OF FLESH AND BLOOD, YOU KNOW!
AT THE SCIENCE COUNCIL...
HA-HA!
THEY--THEY'RE LAUGHING AT ME!
FUNNIEST THING I EVER HEARD!
MR. AQUA ...A WATER MAN!
HO HO HO
HAW!

COME NOW, GROAT! ADMIT THAT YOU'RE A FRAUD! THIS WATER MAN STORY OF YOURS IS JUST A HOAX!
BUT-- BUT---
HOAX, AM I?
I WON'T WAIT OUTSIDE ANY LONGER AND LISTEN TO INSULTS! NO ONE CAN TALK ABOUT ME THAT WAY!
YI!!!
INCREDIBLE!
I REFUSE TO BELIEVE IT! THERE CAN'T BE SUCH A GROTESQUE CREATURE! HE'S SOME KIND OF OPTICAL ILLUSION!
THAT DOES IT!
I'LL SHOW YOU WHETHER OR NOT I'M MADE OF WATER! I'LL DROWN YOU!
NO, MR. AQUA! DON'T!
BLUB
AT THIS MOMENT---
I WANT TO DROP IN AT THE SCIENCE COUNCIL, WOOZY! THEY'RE GOING TO DISCUSS SCIENTIFIC AIDS IN CATCHING CRIMINALS AND---
HELP!
ANYTHING WRONG?
MR. AQUA! HE'S D--D-- DROWNING THE P--PRES-IDENT OF THE SCIENCE COUNCIL!
OH, WELL! ASK A STUPID QUESTION AND YOU GET A STUPID ANSWER! I'LL INVESTIGATE AND SEE FOR MYSELF!


PLEASE, MR. AQUA! THIS IS MURDER!
MY GOSH! IT'S TRUE!
HE REALLY IS MADE OF WATER!
SPLASH!
SLURP
YOU DROVE HIM AWAY, PLASTIC MAN!
TOO LATE! THIS FELLOW IS DEAD!
HIS KILLER MUSTN'T GET AWAY! WHERE'D HE GO?
NO ONE WENT PAST ME, PLAS!
THEN THIS WATER BUCKET IS THE ONLY PLACE HE CAN BE HIDING!
CONFOUND YOU! BUT YOU HAVEN'T CAUGHT ME!
I'M A SLIPPERY ONE!
OH, DRY UP!
HE FINALLY FOUND HIS OWN LEVEL! THERE HE GOES... INTO THE SEWER!
TA--TA! I'LL BE SEEING YOU!
4

LATER---
THIS IS ALL MY FAULT! I'VE CREATED A MONSTER...A CREATURE ABSOLUTELY DEVOID OF ANY MORAL SENSE!
WE'LL FIND A WAY TO COPE WITH HIM!
NO USE WORRYING HIM! BUT GROAT IS LIKELY TO BE NEXT ON MR. AQUA'S SCHEDULE OF MURDER!
LET US KNOW AT ONCE IF YOU LEARN MR. AQUA'S WHEREABOUTS!
I--I WILL, PLASTIC MAN!
WHEN DUNCAN GROAT RETURNS TO HIS LABORATORY...
THERE MUST BE A WAY TO GET RID OF MR. AQUA! I'LL WASH UP AND GO RIGHT TO WORK ON NEW EXPERIMENTS!
YOU'RE A FOOL, GROAT!
MR. AQUA! BUT--BUT HOW DID YOU GET IN?
THROUGH THE WATER FAUCET, NATURALLY! I'VE BEEN HIDING IN THE BASIN UNTIL YOU CAME!
I'VE A PROPOSITION FOR YOU! YOU'VE GOT BRAINS...AND I CAN DO ANYTHING! TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A FORTUNE...IN CRIME!
NO! NEVER!
I WAS AFRAID THAT WOULD BE YOUR ANSWER! YOU'RE THE ONE MAN WHO MIGHT FIND A WAY TO DESTROY ME! SO YOU'VE GOT TO DIE!
GLUB!
SUDDENLY!
I'LL TAKE OVER NOW!
P--PLASTIC MAN!
5

I WAS CERTAIN YOU'D SHOW UP HERE AGAIN, MR. AQUA!
HOW CLEVER OF YOU, PLASTIC MAN!
WHAP!
BUT EVEN YOU CAN'T HURT ME!
SNIP!
SNIP!
SNIP!
SNIP!
AND I CAN DROWN YOU!
GLUB?
GULP!
GULP!
DON'T JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS! I'M CAPABLE OF A FEW TRICKS OF MY OWN!
HUH?
SEE WHAT I MEAN?
LET ME OUT!
GLADLY!
PLASH!
I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE! TRY TO STOP ME!
NOW, PLAS?
NOW!


YAAAAAA! I'M BURNING UP!
SSSSSS
IT WORKED, PLAS! THE HEAT FROM THE REFLECTOR STARTED TO DRY HIM UP! BUT HE WENT INTO THE DRAINPIPE!
I'LL WRIGGLE HIM OUT AGAIN! KEEP THE HEAT ON!
TSK--TSK! YOU DON'T LOOK WELL AT ALL, MR. AQUA! YOU'RE JUST FADING AWAY!
YOU-- YOU--
HE HEADED BACK INTO THE LAB! THE HEAT RAYS CAN'T REACH HIM IN THERE!
A PAINSTAKING SEARCH OF THE LAB REVEALS...
NOTHING! MR. AQUA'S ESCAPED AGAIN!
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! HE COULDN'T WOOZY! WHAT ARE YOU DRINKING?
THERE WASN'T ANY WATER IN THAT PITCHER BEFORE! YOU JUST DRANK MR. AQUA!
GULP! I--I DIDN'T MEAN TO DO IT! I WAS JUST THIRSTY!
SOME TIME LATER IN PLASTIC MAN'S APARTMENT...
I GUESS EVERYONE WAS GLAD TO SEE THE LAST OF MR. AQUA! THAT REMINDS ME! HAVE YOU READ ABOUT THE SERIOUS WATER SHORTAGE IN OUR CITY?
DOESN'T BOTHER ME, PLAS! I'VE SWORN OFF THE STUFF! WHY, IF I DRANK ANOTHER GLASS OF WATER IT'D MAKE ME FEEL LIKE A CANNIBAL!
SLURP!
SLURP!

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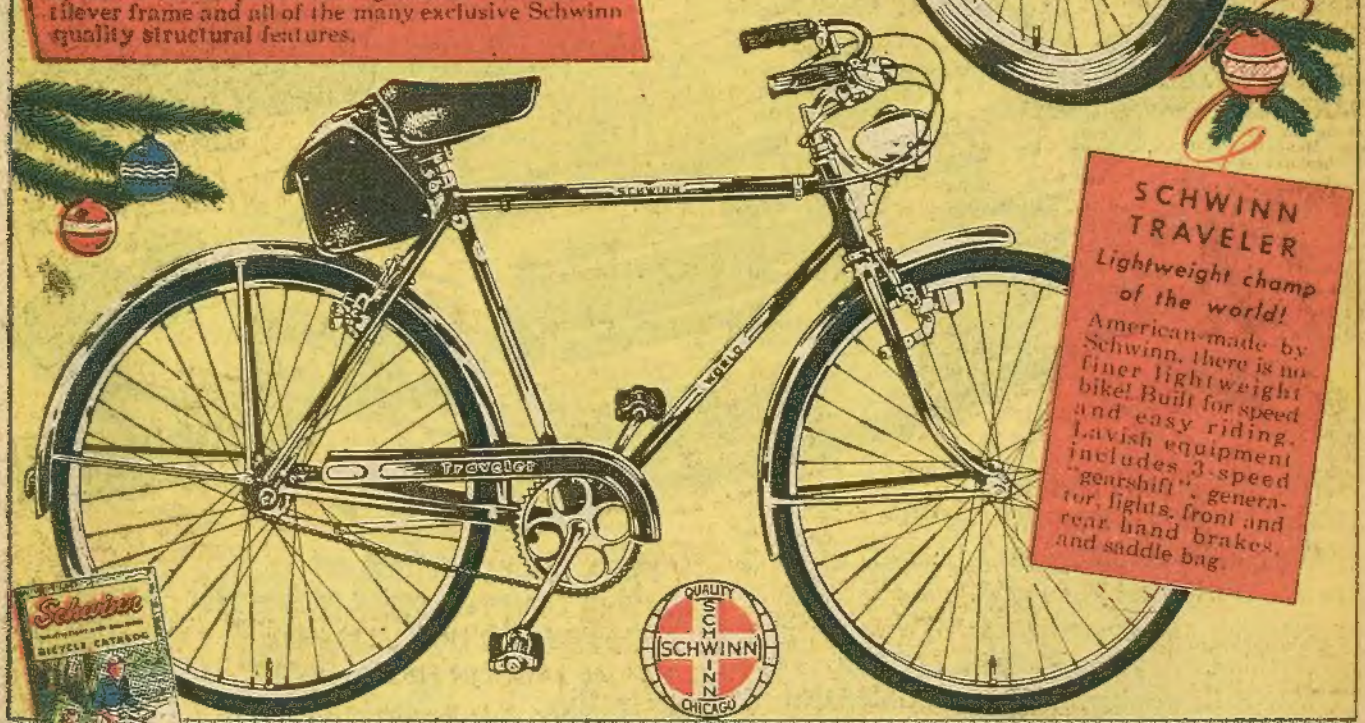

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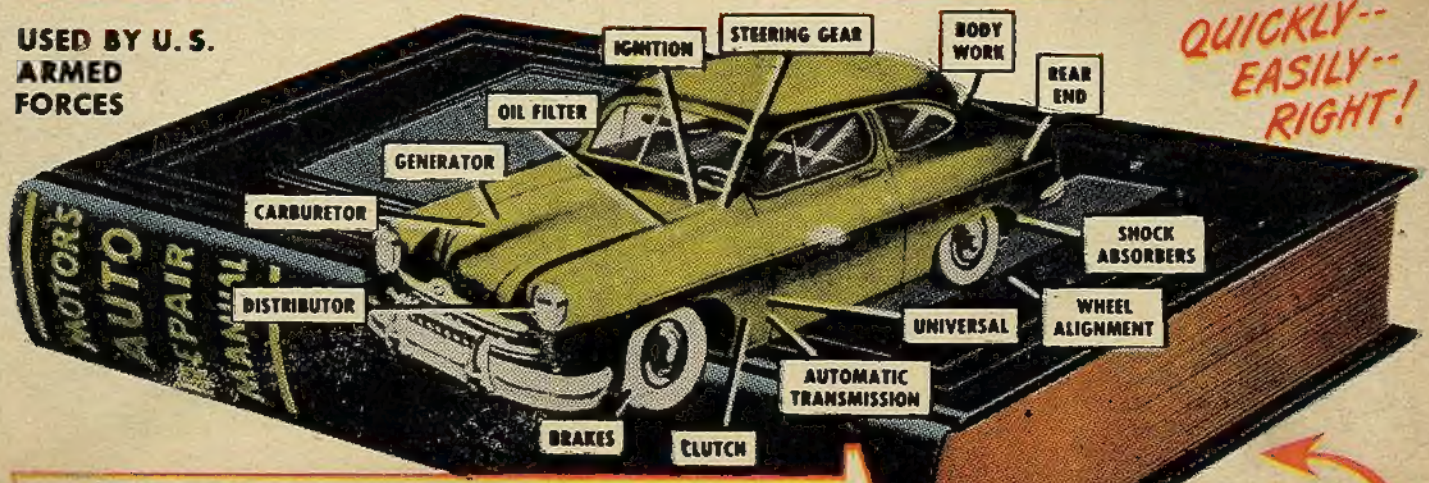

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